

Attorney Docket No. 10559-151001
Serial No.: 09/539,927
Amendment dated January 30, 2004
Reply to Office Action dated October 30, 2003

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the above-referenced application are respectfully requested.

The objections to the claims noted in item 3 has been obviated herein by amendment.

Claims 2-24 stand rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. In response, these claims are amended herewith for definiteness, and specifically to obviate the indefiniteness rejections noted by the Examiner.

The term "conditions" has been narrowed to recite conditions occurring in the network device, in order to obviate the objection to this language.

Claims 1, 2, 9, 14, 15 and 18-23 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Gai. Claims 3-8, 10-13, 16 and 17 and 24 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Gai in view of Flint. In response, each of the remaining independent claims has been amended to add the limitation of "simplifying said policy rules... to remove duplicate policy rules and to form simplified policy rules". This system hence simplifies the policy rules prior to forming the access control lists which are used to

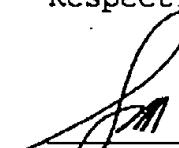
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generate the access filters. Nothing in Gai in view of Flint teaches or suggests simplifying the policy rules in this way. Therefore, it is respectfully suggested that each of the claims, as now amended to include this new limitation, should be allowable for these reasons.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, therefore, all of the claims should be in condition for allowance. A formal notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

Please apply any charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,



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